

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

May 29, 2019

By Email: news@dhhs.nc.gov

Director Chris Mackey
Office of Communications
North Carolina Department of
Health and Human Services
20011 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1931

Re: North Carolina Open Records Request

Dear Director Mackey:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for public records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-1, *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks any and all records related to the Department of Health and Human Services (the “Department”) and Human Coalition. This includes, but is not limited to, any communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, applications, grant awards, contracts, reports, or other documents (1) pertaining to Human Coalition, and (2) any communications to, from, or between any member of the Department and any employee or representative of Human Coalition.

This request is for records from May 1, 2015 through the present.

By way of background, in 2017, the North Carolina General Assembly awarded Human Coalition a two-year grant totaling \$600,000 as part of its appropriation to the Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship.¹ The funding was intended to enable Human Coalition to develop a Continuum of Care pilot program to assist women experiencing unexpected pregnancies to carry their pregnancies to full term.² As a condition, Human Coalition can use the funds for “nonsectarian purposes only.”³ However, Human Coalition operates the Continuum of Care program with significant religious underpinning in violation of the condition.⁴ According to *Rewire.News*, North Carolina lawmakers recently proposed in the

¹ 2017 N.C. Sess. Laws 186.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ See Request for Termination of North Carolina’s Contract with Human Coalition, CAMPAIGN FOR ACCOUNTABILITY, at 8, available at <https://campaignforaccountability.org/work/letter-calling-on-north-carolina-to-terminate-contract-with-anti-abortion-clinic-human-coalition/>.

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states' 2019-21 budget to award more than \$1.2 million per fiscal year to Human Coalition.⁵

Where possible, please produce records electronically.⁶ If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§132-1.1 through 1.23, please explain in writing the reasons for any determination that a record is exempt from disclosure. In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, but it is possible to redact that portion and produce the remainder of the requested record, please do so.⁷ Please produce the requested records "as promptly as possible" pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6(a).

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA seeks the information to benefit the general public, we request that the information be provided without charge. If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

If you foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750. If possible, please email the records to me at ahuling@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Alice C.C. Huling
Counsel

⁵ See North Carolina Legislature Seeks to Quadruple Taxpayer Funding for Anti-Choice Clinic Group, REWIRE.NEWS, available at <https://rewirenews.com/article/2019/05/03/north-carolina-legislature-seeks-to-quadruple-taxpayer-funding-for-anti-choice-clinic-group/>.

⁶ N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6.2(a).

⁷ N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6(c).